



## **Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

**October 9, 2012**

**10:00 AM**

### **RI Emergency Management Agency**

645 New London Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Attendance**

MG Kevin McBride  
Deputy Ed Johnson  
Jamia McDonald  
William Webster  
Jim Ball  
Erin Lambie  
Alysia Mihalakos  
Dawn Lewis  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Brian Pires  
Susan Earley  
Peter Ginaitt  
James Lanni  
Joe McCooey  
Gregory Scungio  
Joseph Arsenault  
Peter Marinucci  
Robert Fitzpatrick  
Shad Ahmed  
Jay Levenson  
Marian Juskuv  
Barry Noel  
Jeff Kelly  
Erin McDonough  
Jeff Stevens

Patrick Johnson  
William Mullen  
Jeff Hatcher  
Donna DiMichele  
Deborah Garneau  
Colleen Ann Polselli  
Vladimir Ibarra

## **I. Call to Order / Attendance – MG McBride**

MG McBride informed the membership that Chairwoman Roberts was unable to attend the meeting. She provided information on a recent meeting she attended on October 4, 2012 with the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) -The Point, in response to a large number of phone calls from seniors and adults with disabilities during Tropical Storm Irene.

The ADRC created a team comprised of the following stakeholders: RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA), National Grid, American Red Cross, the RI Department of Health and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, RI Housing, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and the United Way's 2-1-1.

The majority of the calls received were from residents of public and private senior housing complexes. Resident service coordinators, staff these facilities providing residents with an on-site resource. Chairwoman Roberts will like to continue the conversation with the ADRC and have them present at a future meeting.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2012**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) Update**

RIEMA Deputy Director Ed Johnson updated members on some of the initiatives in which the agency has been engaged, including: the Department of Homeland Security audit of grant programs and the construction and upgrades to the Emergency Operations Center. Deputy Johnson invited members to sign up for the Business Continuity Conference on October 31, 2012 and the School Safety Conference on November 1.

Lastly, the Deputy went on to discuss their participation at several exercises and trainings including the New England Exercise and Training Conference, the New England Manager Directors Conference, the Winter Planning Conference and the Rhode Island Statewide Communications Network (RISCON) review and interoperability is ongoing.

## **IV. Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness**

### **William Webster, Director, National Preparedness Division FEMA Region 1**

MG McBride introduced William Webster, Director of the National Preparedness Division FEMA Region 1. Mr. Webster is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New

London, Connecticut. During his 26 year military service, he served on two ships. Mr. Webster was the regional director for Coast Guard operations from Maine to New Jersey and coordinated regional operations in response to the 9-11 terrorist attacks. In that capacity, he helped create and develop some of the Coast Guard's maritime domain awareness and anti-terrorist doctrine. Mr. Webster transitioned to FEMA Region 1 as its Federal Preparedness Coordinator, he currently supports the six New England states and their communities by coordinating enhanced preparedness programs in schools/universities, private sector and with various public safety agencies.

Mr. Webster commented on the Lt. Governor's efforts with the group on aging and affiliates as part of Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD8) National Preparedness goals of a comprehensive community approach. He discussed some of the outreach conducted by FEMA in Maine with their Senior Preparedness Program that has an emphasis on changing behaviors as they were the group most affected during Katrina.

Mr. Webster went on to explain that PPD8: National Preparedness aims at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the Nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters. The work builds upon input from stakeholders and incidents around the nation including lessons learned to identify core capabilities and targets necessary to advance our national preparedness. This comprehensive approach added inclusiveness with the public and private sector, nonprofit organizations, faith based and the general public. National Preparedness Goals were added with a focus on "A secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

Mr. Webster also discussed the Strategic Foresight Initiative (SFI) that attempts to help the agency understand who or what will shape the future over the next 20 years so that the emergency management (EM) community can get ahead of those changes and plan accordingly. This policy helps develop a shared sense of direction for the EM community to collectively prepare for the future and plan for and take action to meet evolving needs. Some of the benefits of SFI include:

- Avoid strategic surprises, promote information sharing across disciplines and organizations, and understand what changes could affect emergency management.
- Provide more comprehensive information to make more proactive decisions and strategic alignment and operational collaboration across organizations as well as an opportunity for integrated planning for the future.
- The agency is being proactive taking into consideration shifts in demographics and technological innovation, aging infrastructure, as well as budget constraints affecting what they can do and whom they need to partner with.

Lastly, Mr. Webster highlighted FEMA's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The THIRA is an all hazards capability based assessment tool used by all jurisdictions to understand its threats and hazards and how their impacts may vary according to time of occurrence, locations, and community factors. This knowledge allows a jurisdiction to

establish informed and defensible capability targets and commit appropriate resources drawn from the whole community to closing the gap between a target and a current capability. Mr. Webster opened the floor for questions with the caveat that if questions were too specific to a program he would bring those concerns to FEMA and respond accordingly.

MG McBride inquired about the new National Preparedness System created by PPD8 and the THIRA method and what it meant for Rhode Island in the long term taking into account funding cuts to DHS's - Urban Area Security Initiative grants in Providence.

Mr. Webster indicated that the THIRA process provides a window of core capability targets for partners, public and private to assist in the development of core capabilities. This means that sometimes new strategies and risk assessments will be formulated based on partners and the development of community resiliency.

Lastly, Mr. Ginaitt commented on the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and the need to create added flexibility so that it can be utilized on a smaller scale for less complex TTX and quick turnaround drills. Mr. Webster informed Mr. Ginaitt that he would bring his concerns to DHS for further review.

## **V. National Cyber Awareness Month: Rhode Island Cyber Initiative**

**Jamia McDonald, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Lincoln Chafee**

**Robert Fitzpatrick, RIEMA Rhode Island Cyber Disruption Team**

MG McBride became concerned with Cyber security implications and how do we address the general population if we lose power; how do we keep functioning to serve the citizens of our state. He was pleased that the Administration was addressing these policy questions and introduced Jamia McDonald, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Lincoln Chafee.

Ms. McDonald provided an overview of the Governor's Cyber Security Strategic Plan for our state. The Governor's policies and procedures to respond to a cyber disruption aim at addressing four key areas:

1. *Sustainability of government operations.* This area will be accomplished by training all employees that access our systems, creating continuity of operations plans and building redundancies and recovery time objectives. Testing backup and placing different variables, testing and auditing them and developing internal and external communications plan.
2. *Education of the public and business community.* This effort aims at elevating the level of knowledge across state agencies with cross pollination in order to address gaps.
3. *Cyber defense.* Aims to address the larger question of how do we defend and respond to an attack when according to reports critical infrastructure is compromised every day. The state has been working to update our cyber security support annex and the state support the private sector-business continuity plan, they plan to build network security layers of control at different levels of government.
4. *Economic and workforce development.* An industry survey will be conducted to assess the skills gaps and areas of training needed. As the private sector becomes more

sophisticated, one of the key questions becomes what they need from their employees. There is also a piece that will address military personnel transitioning out of service and identifying funding.

Mr. Fitzpatrick's presentation addressed how the Rhode Island Cyber Disruption Team (CDT) responds to cyber disruptions caused by natural hazard, deliberate act or anomaly which affect critical infrastructure, whether public or private, to ensure continuity of operations and the safety of Rhode Island citizen's and national security.

The CDT is comprised of a cadre of experts available to manage or assist the management of a critical incident. Rhode Island State Police Computer CDT acts as the lead agency in coordinating the operational cyber-related response component of a broader emergency situation unless or until the event becomes an incident of national significance.

Mr. Fitzpatrick explained the pivotal partnerships forged and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed towards these efforts among agencies. He also discussed some of the activities the team has been engaged in including a presentation at the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program in Seattle on September 18, 2012, the October 11 Cyber Disruption Exercise, the October 20 Senior Leadership Training, and the October 31 Better Business Bureau community outreach among others. Mr. Fitzpatrick opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Ginaitt asked a question in the context of an incident that compromised his organization several years ago with a Trojan horse hiding as a McAfee upgrade. He wanted to know how the CDT assesses system vulnerabilities. Mr. Fitzpatrick answered that the CDT works with investigators to prevent, protect against, detect, and respond to cyber terrorism related incidents including recommending protective controls for critical information systems. For further questions about the presentation please contact Mr. Fitzpatrick at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency at 401.946.9996.

## **VI. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions**

Next EMAC meeting will be Subcommittee Reports on December 11 at the RI Department of Transportation. RIEMA's Planning Room will be going through renovations for the next 6 months.